

Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS)
VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION

Volunteer Position Title	Agronomist Advisor
Country	Kenya
Partner Organization	Meru Dairy Co-operative Union
Placement Location(s)	Meru town with travel within Meru County
Duration of placement	1-3 months, flexible
Planned Start date	September 2026 onwards
Eligibility requirements	Open to Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada only.
Language Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> English Will the volunteer have the support of a local translator for some of their duties? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Placement objective and volunteer role and responsibilities	<p>As the Agronomist Advisor based in Meru, Kenya you will support Meru Dairy Cooperative Union to lead trainings and build staff capacity on feed/fodder production and preservation and other best practices linked to increased milk production and quality.</p> <p>As part of your role, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in developing a curriculum, training module and resource materials on fodder production relevant to the local context and area • Support in the design and implementation of demonstration plots for innovative fodder crops and agronomic practices • Share best practices and provide technical support in fodder crop production and preservation • Build capacity of staff members by training them on areas such as improved approaches to production, harvesting, processing and storage techniques of both new and existing fodder crops (legume, non-legume and fodder trees) in line with the local context • Support in training of Community One Health Champions - these are a group of lead farmers who offer basic animal welfare training to fellow farmers after making changes on their own farms. • Promote gender equality by encouraging information sharing within the household level. • Ensure an environmental and sustainability climate action lens is applied throughout the placement by promoting proper management of animal waste (manure management). • Promote good governance practices by encouraging staff to measure their performance in delivery of trainings to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in pre-assignment training • Submit reports as required by the partner organization and by VWB • Participate in pre-assignment training • Submit reports as required by the partner organization and by VWB
Professional experience and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree and/or relevant experience in agronomy, dairy feeds processing or a related field • Minimum two (2) years relevant professional experience in your field of expertise • A commitment to gender equality, One Health principles, and international volunteering • Flexibility, adaptability, excellent interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity • Experience with group facilitation and trainings, including content development considered an asset • Experience living and working internationally considered an asset
Working conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling large animals • Driving on bumpy gravel/murram roads in the countryside to reach farms/farmers. • Stairs in the office • Lifting and carrying light weight items related to animal health practice

Support Package
<p>VWB offers you an incredible experience to take part in an international volunteer experience where you will expand your personal and professional skills while contributing to global development. VWB commits to supporting you throughout your volunteer journey and will cover the majority of the costs involved in being an overseas volunteer, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-departure training • In-country orientation upon arrival in country of placement • Return airfare to placement country • Visa/permit costs • The cost of required for vaccinations and anti-malarial medication • Overseas emergency travel health insurance • A monthly living allowance (MLA) that will be paid into the volunteer's bank account in Canada. The MLA is designed to be sufficient to cover simple housing, basic food requirements, and other typical monthly living expenses. • Debrief after the placement
Fundraising
VWB encourages each volunteer to raise funds towards the organization's operations.
About Veterinarians Without Borders

In the global south, more than 90 per cent of food animals are raised by subsistence farmers yet these small-scale livestock producers, the majority of whom are women, have very limited access to quality and affordable animal health services. Aside from the risks associated with the loss of valuable livestock who provide important protein and/or income for poor households, zoonotic diseases that can be passed from animals to humans offer a very real threat to human health on a wider scale.

Veterinarians without Borders/Vétérinaires sans Frontières (VWB) works for, and with, communities in need to foster the health of animals, people and the environments that sustain us. VWB works nationally and internationally to train animal health workers, increase food security, and improve animal & public health. VWB provides overseas volunteer placements for veterinarians and other animal & public health professionals.

About the Project: Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS)

Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS) is a seven-year (2020 to 2027) Volunteer Cooperation Program funded by Global Affairs Canada. VETS will engage 190 volunteers who will support local partner organizations in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Volunteers will help create integrated animal health systems to increase the livelihoods and household nutrition of small-scale farmers.

The VETS program utilizes the skills of volunteers to build local partner capacity to support community members, primarily women, to reduce poverty. Through improved production of livestock and crops, volunteers help improve family income and nutrition. The VETS program is built around the One Health concept, which recognizes that the health of people, animals, and the natural environment are interconnected. This project promotes the production of more and better food and increased incomes from livestock, all the while promoting land rehabilitation and conservation for sustainable development.